

## Message Text

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61

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-11 SCS-03 SCA-01 SY-05 EB-07 COME-00 /102 W

----- 064568

R 051215Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY OAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY BARCELONA

AMEMBASSY CASABLANCA

AMEMBASSY MARSEILLES

SECSTATE WASHDC 3796

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ALGIERS 0295

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN, PINS, AG

SUBJECT: HEIGHTENED SENSITIVITY IN ALGERIA TO FOREIGNERS

REF: ALGIERS 84, ALGIERS 205 (NOTAL)

1. AS SAHARAN CRISIS CONTINUES, EMBASSY CONTINUES TO  
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RECEIVE REPORTS OF AMERICANS AND OTHER FOREIGNERS BEING

DETAINED, QUESTIONED, AND SOMETIMES HARASSED BY POLICE FOR NO APPARENT REASON. THOUGH INCIDENTS WE HAVE LEARNED OF INVOLVE MOSTLY AMERICANS, OTHER WESTERNERS SUBJECT TO SAME IF NOT WORSE TREATMENT. AMCONSUL ORAN REPORTS CLIMATE IN WESTERN ALGERIA ESPECIALLY TENSE. TOURISTS THERE HAVE BEEN SYSTEM-ATICALLY RELIEVED OF FILM IN CAMERA AND POLICE ROADBLOCKS FAMILIAR SIGHT AROUND ORAN. THOUGH TENSION UNDERSTANDABLY MORE PREVALENT IN WESTERN ALGERIA, AMERICANS WORKING IN EASTERN PART OF COUNTRY SAY CLIMATE THERE NOT MUCH BETTER. SOME OF MORE NOTABLE INCIDENTS FOLLOW:

A. AMERICAN STUDENT AT UNIVERSITY OF ALGIERS DETAINED BY POLICE FOR MORE THAN 24 HOURS OSTENSIBLY FOR INFRACTION OF RULES GOVERNING LEASING OF ROOMS IN DORMITORY (ALGIERS 240). BEFORE SHE RELEASED, POLICE HAD COMPILED SIZEABLE REPORT ON HER FAMILY AND BACKGROUND.

B. AMERICANS WORKING FOR CONSTRUCTION FIRM IN SKIKDA (EASTERN ALGERIA) SAY THEY ARE SUBJECT TO FREQUENT STOPS BY POLICE AND ASKED EACH TIME TO SHOW ALL IDENTITY DOCUMENTS. THOUGH AMERICANS WITH FIRM HAVE UNTIL NOW WORKED WITHOUT IDENTITY CARD OR WORK PERMIT (AS HAVE MANY AMERICANS IN ALGERIA, DESPITE ALGERIAN LAW REQUIRING THEM TO HAVE THEM) THEY HAVE NOW BEEN INFORMED THAT THEY MUST OBTAIN THESE DOCUMENTS IF THEY WISH TO CONTINUE WORK HERE.

C. ENGINEER WORKING OUTSIDE ALGIERS FOR AMERICAN ELECTRONICS FIRM HAVING CONTRACT WITH PTT SAYS LOCAL POLICE HAVE BEGUN TO CALL IN AND QUESTION ALL PERSONS (ALGERIANS AND FOREIGNERS) HAVING HAD ANY SOCIAL CONTACT WITH AMERICANS. HE REPORTS COMANY EMPLOYEES ENCOUNTERING DIFFICULTY HAVING VISAS RENEWED; THEY TOO BEING TOLD TO OBTAIN RESIDENT CARD.

D. INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY SERVICES TEACHER IN CONSTANTINE SAYS SHE RECENTLY DETAINED FOR NOT HAVING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPORTED TO POLICE NAME OF OVERNIGHT GUEST IN HER HOME. SHE WAS ALSO SUBJECT TO GOOD MANY QUESTIONS HAVING NO BEARING ON HER APPARENT MISDEED.

E. PETROLEUM GEOLOGIST, WHO HAS BEEN WORKING FOR SONATRACH (STATE PETROLEUM CO.) FOR TWO AND HALF YEARS, FOUND HIS WORKING FILES RANSACKED UPON RETURN-ING FROM VACATION IN JANUARY. IN EARLY FEB HIS CONTRACT

WAS BROKEN (HE NORMALLY WOULD HAVE STAYED UNTIL MAY 1976) AND HIS HOUSE RECLAIMED. HE ONLY AMCIT WORKING IN PRODUCTION DIVISION OF SONATRACH WHERE, ACCORDING TO HIS WIFE, 30-40 SOVIET TECHNICIANS RECENTLY ARRIVED. HE LEAVING ALGERIA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

2. ABOVE INCIDENTS ILLUSTRATIVE OF HEIGHTENED SENSITIVITY TO PRESENCE OF FOREIGNERS IN ALGERIA. EMBASSY SUGGESTS ADDRESSEE POSTS CONTINUE ADVISE ALL AMERICANS TRAVELING TO ALGERIA TO EXERCISE CAUTION. THIS ESPECIALLY TRUE RE USE OF CAMERAS. TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON EMBASSY PERSONNEL AND OTHER AMERICANS (REPORTED REFTEL) REMAIN IN EFFECT.

DECONTROL UPON RECEPT.LYNE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** TOURISM, HARASSMENT, TRAVEL CONTROLS  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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